

Facility Information

Name: Caldwell Housing Authority
Contact: Mike Dittenber, Executive Director
Type: Sanitary Services (SIC 4952)
Physical Address: Located immediately south of the office (mailing address)
Mailing Address: 22730 Farmway Road, Caldwell, ID 83605
Phone Number: (208) 459-2232
Fax Number: (208) 455-2816
Permit Number: ID-002545-3

Inspection Information

Date: August 15, 2011
Entry Time: 9:15 am
Exit Time: 10:45 am
Inspector(s): Jennifer Wester (Idaho DEQ-State Office), Kevin Ryan (Idaho DEQ-BRO)
Facility Personnel: Cheri Hess (Caldwell Housing Authority), Pedro Melchor (CHA), Cecilia Flores (CHA), Thomas Krosowski (IES)
Report Author: Jennifer Wester (Idaho DEQ-State Office)
Inspection Type: Announced CEI
Weather: Mostly sunny, around 75°F
Purpose: Determination of compliance with NPDES Permit #ID-002545-3 and the Clean Water Act.

Owner/Operator Information

Owner: Caldwell Housing Authority
Operator: Mike Dittenber

Inspection Entry

Mr. Ryan and I arrived at 9:10 am to meet Ms. Hess and Mr. Krosowski at the Caldwell Housing Authority (CHA) office. No credentials were presented as I have not yet received any; however I showed my DEQ identification badge and left copies of my business card. I explained that DEQ has a contract with EPA to perform a number of NPDES inspections each year. Access was granted to inspect and photograph the wastewater treatment system and operation records.

Background

CHA's wastewater treatment facility consists of three lagoons. The facility is located at the south end of the subdivision near the discharge to Sebree Canal. The facility is fenced and includes the lagoons and disinfection facilities. The operator's offices are located in the CHA offices approximately 300 feet north of the facility. The facility discharges to Sebree Canal through Outlet 001. There are no other outfalls from the plant.

Waste Management Process

Wastewater from the residents in the CHA subdivision is collected via gravity lines and sent to the first of two aerated lagoons. At the time of the inspection, the aerator for Lagoon 1 had been removed for service. The third, unaerated lagoon allows remaining solids to settle prior to disinfection and discharge. Disinfection is accomplished by addition of sodium hypochlorite prior to passing through the chlorine contact chamber (see Figure 20 of the photo log in Appendix 1). The influent sampling point was not observed during this inspection. Effluent samples are collected by a composite sampler at the final weir (see Figure 24).

Scope of the Inspection

During the inspection, I reviewed the facility permit, records (see Figures 1 through 8 of Appendix 1), treatment site (see Figures 9 through 24 and 26), operations and maintenance (see Figure 7) and discharge point (see Figure 25). Sample collection was not evaluated at the time of the inspection. Flow meters were discussed and calibration records were examined for the effluent meter. Sludge handling processes and procedures were not evaluated at the time of the inspection.

Records Review

As shown in Figures 1 through 4 of Appendix 1, I reviewed the most recent Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) (July 2011) and associated documentation. Hard copies of DMR data submitted by the permittee are kept in a binder at the CHA office building (see Figure 1). The calculations were done correctly and there were no discrepancies noted between the recorded and reported data.

The Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was assembled in May 2007 and several copies were available throughout the office.

The operation and maintenance (O&M) manual for the permittee is dated 2003 and contains operating procedures and manuals for current treatment system equipment. I suggested that the QAPP and O&M manuals be evaluated and updated as necessary with the new permit. I also suggested that a map of the sampling points be added to the QAPP.

Receiving Water

CHA's wastewater treatment facility discharges directly to Sebree Canal. Outfall 001 and the associated structures and piping are shown in Figure 25 of Appendix 1.

Area(s) of Concern

At the time of the inspection, a second flow meter (Parshall flume) was found north of Lagoon 2, as shown in Figure 16 of Appendix 1. Although the bottom of the flume was wet at the time of the inspection, it appears that the flume is not currently used to measure facility flows since the wiring for the ultrasonic meter was melted during the weed burn. Neither Mr. Krasowski nor Ms. Hess were sure where the flows for this structure come from or go to.

NPDES Inspection Report

At the time of the inspection, the O&M Manual did not include a written emergency plan or an emergency phone contact list. I suggested to Ms. Hess that a list of telephone contact numbers (including the State and EPA) be posted near a phone in the office and included in the emergency plan.

During the inspection, I asked about the floor drain in the disinfection building. None of the maintenance staff (Mr. Melchor and Ms. Flores) or Mr. Krasowski could identify where the drain was piped to. I suggested that the drain be located on the record drawings for the facility to determine where it would discharge to in the event of a containment breach in the hypochlorite storage tank.

Closing Conference

The closing conference took place after observing the outfall with Cheri Hess (CHA), Cecilia Flores (CHA), Pedro Melchor (CHA), Thomas Krasowski (IES), Kevin Ryan (DEQ-BRO), and Jennifer Wester (DEQ-Technical Services). I reviewed the recommendations to update the QAPP and O&M Manual as well as the items listed in the previous section. Mr. Ryan and I exited the facility at 10:45 am.

Appendices

1. Photo Log
2. Permit Status Report dated August 2, 2011

Signature and Date



Jennifer Wester, P.E.
Idaho DEQ

9/6/2011

TRIM Record: 2011AGF2363